Generous Harvest of Blooms, Willing Hands Bring Springtime Joy to Shut-Ins

Mrs. Percy Scurrah, wife of the mayor, was among many contributing yesterday to Colonist Share the Flowers plan. Collecting blooms for distribution to hospital shut-ins is volunteer driver Mrs. A. G. McBride.

Bountiful harvest of blooms was arranged at the Colonist downtown office by volunteer workers like Mrs. V. G. Pritchard, left, Mrs. C. E. Palmer and Mrs. Frank Dewhurst and then delivered to city hospitals.

Staffs of five city hospitals distributed blossoms to rooms and wards after they were delivered by Share the Flowers drivers. At St. Joseph's student nurse Elaine Jennings was surrounded by blooms.

Pleased smile of J. H. Kirby, 83, a patient at St. Joseph's Hospital, was typical of reaction of hundreds of hospital shut-ins to the breath of spring provided by the spring blossoms. See Page 8. —(Colonist photos.)

LOCAL NEWS

The Daily Colonist.

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SECOND NEWS SECTION | VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1959 | PAGE NINETEEN

Scots Dance, Pipe Tomorrow

Victoria Highland Games Association will hold its sixth annual Highland dancing and piping meet Saturday starting at 1 p.m. in Britannia auditorium, Blanshard and Cormorant.

Brig. J. S. Adam will officially open the meet at 3 p.m. assisted by pipe band of Canadian Scottish Cadet Corps.

During the afternoon a full program of Highland dancing and piping competitions will be held in novice and open classes. Cups are offered in age groups, under nine, under 11, under 13, under 16 and over 16. A piping cup is open to all amateurs under 16.

During the evening an open quadrille competition will be held for the Jessie Duncan trophy and Scottish dancing for juniors for the Highland Games trophy.

Dancing judges will be Mrs. Helen Summers and Mrs. G. Twamley, with piping judge Ian Wallace of Nanaimo. Piping for dancers will be J. Lowe and J. Troy.

Spring Starts Saturday

Saturday will be the first official day of spring.

Dr. R. M. Petrie, director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory on Little Saanich Mountain, last night said the sun will pass over the Equator at 12.55 a.m. Saturday.

A normal Victoria spring is expected, including a possibility of several frosts as late as May, weatherman William Mackie said, adding that the average temperature is expected to continue its slow climb.

Good Friday Holiday For Mailmen

Mailmen serving Greater Victoria will have a holiday this Good Friday.

The downtown post office will be open for wicket service between 10 a.m. and noon. Street box collections will be made in the evening only.

One delivery will be made Easter Monday and wickets will be open from 8 a.m. to noon. Box collections will be normal.

Boosts of $210,000 Now Feared

Increase of 8.2 Per Cent Awarded 'Inside' City Staff

A conciliation board has awarded the inside staff of city hall a wage increase of 8.2 per cent.

The award, binding on both sides, was announced last night at a special meeting of the City Hall Employees' Association. The association had asked for 14.41 per cent, and city council, through City Manager C. C. Wyatt, had argued that no increase should be granted.

ADD $35,000

The increase, effective only from March 1, will add about $35,000 this year to the city's costs. If it were to become the pattern for contracts now under negotiation for other city employee groups—the outside workers, policemen, firemen and public health nurses—the total wage increase would be about $210,000.

This fact worried Mayor Percy Scurrah last night.

SERIOUS RESULTS

"If this becomes a pattern, the results can be very serious to the city, insofar as we are also faced with an increase of perhaps $400,000 for the city's share of school taxation," the mayor said. He added that the figure of $400,000 was a guess at this time, because assessment figures for Greater Victoria which determine the sharing of school costs are not yet known.

Mayor Scurrah said there was no reason why the 8.2-per-cent increase should be regarded as a pattern, "but so often these things are."

It was unfortunate, he said, that the provincial government had given its employees an increase of approximately 8 per cent while the conciliation board was deliberating.

Thomas Smith, president of City Hall Employees' Association, said he would be satisfied with the award if a recommendation for a further salary survey is implemented.

NO PARITY

He said some technical groups within the association feel that even with the 8.2 per cent award they "aren't getting parity with comparable technical groups" in other municipalities.

"That's the main reason why we want to see the board's recommendation fully implemented," said Mr. Smith.

Ferry Docks Chosen

Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi last night confirmed that Tsawwassen is the site chosen for the mainland terminus of the Saanich peninsula-mainland government-operated ferries which will start operation early next year.

He also confirmed that Sidney will be the Island terminal.

Mr. Gaglardi said it will cost upwards of $3,000,000 to build a terminal at Tsawwassen and only $1,500,000 to build a terminal at White Rock.

But, he pointed out, the nine miles shorter distance to Tsawwassen from Sidney will mean a saving of $300,000 a year in operating costs. "In 10 years that would be the cost of the entire landing," he said.

JUDY HOWARD

* * *

Seen In Passing

Judy Howard modelling the Indian dress she'll be wearing at the Kinsmen boat show to be held at the Curling Rink April 16 to 18. (She is a student at Central Junior High School and lives at home, 235 Howe, with her parents, **Mr.** and **Mrs. A. E. Howard.** Her hobbies are ice skating and dancing) . . . **Harry Witmer** passing cigars around . . . **Capt. Michael Carlton-Smith** giving a talk . . . **Brig. Jim Lister** introducing the speaker . . . **Alec Ingram** driving a customer to work . . . **Adrian Stone** talking to a client . . . **Lt.-Col H. G. F. Morgan,** electrical mechanical engineer officer of western army command, talking over plans with **Capt. Harry Coull,** commanding officer of 40th Technical, RCEME.

Recreation Group Meets Tuesday

A meeting of Saanich Recreation Association will be held at 7.30 p.m. Tuesday at 715 Johnson Street. The meeting is open to representatives of organized groups in Saanich which are interested in developing recreation in the municipal parks and playgrounds.

Expert's Opinion

Education Not Law Brings Labor Peace

Legislation can't bring about labor-management peace, an expert in labor-management relations said yesterday.

Kenneth R. Martin of Vancouver, partner in a management research firm, said peace couldn't be legislated in any field, and particularly not in the labor-management field.

He suggested, in an address to the Rotary Club, that education — a better understanding of each other's viewpoints — was the key to a more peaceful situation.

He would like to see the University of British Columbia, as an institution without a tinge of bias, bring labor and management together in the next few years to try to gain better understanding, he said.

Mr. Martin said both sides had descended like a deluge on the provincial government and, he thought, the government had done a good job after listening to them, in selecting items that needed immediate attention.

He believed the new Trades Unions Act was a good piece of legislation, he said.

But, he added, "If you think it's going to bring us closer to a time of industrial peace, I think you're wrong."

One proposal put forward as a means of gaining industrial peace was that Canadian unions be separated from their U.S. international headquarters, he said, but he didn't agree with it.

Record Budget Passed

The provincial legislature last night finally approved the biggest budget ever presented in British Columbia.

After 13 days of sitting as a committee of supply, the House approved Premier Bennett's record $300,401,394 budget for the year ending March 31, 1960.

Included in the estimates was $13,108,976, which will clear the province of its direct net debt.

MRS. E. E. HARPER
. . . donations poor

* * *

$3,626,300

Courthouse Money Found

Victoria Liberal MLA George Gregory, who failed to find out Wednesday where Works Minister W. N. Chant expected to get the money to build the new courthouse promised for Victoria, found out yesterday.

The money is included in Vote 339 of the estimates—$3,626,300 set aside for construction of provincial buildings. But Mr. Gregory didn't find out from Mr. Chant, whose refusals to answer questions Wednesday drew strong criticism from the opposition.

"Yes, the money is in there for the Victoria courthouse," Premier Bennett said smiling, when the vote was called. "I can't tell you the exact amount until the contracts are let. All the Victoria members are going to be very pleased this year."

Outside the House, Mr. Chant told the Colonist the construction of the courthouse will be timed to provide winter employment—as the Colonist has reported several times in the past.

"It will be a sizable building and will require a considerable number of workmen," he said. "It will take between one and two years to finish it."

Mr. Chant said exact plans have not been completed, although general plans are proceeding.

"The attorney-general's department and the court officials have been consulted as to their needs," he added.

Vegetables, Eggs Needed

Scores Hungry Facing Want

Fresh vegetables and eggs are urgently needed for the special Easter surplus food stall in the city public market Saturday.

Organizer Mrs. E. E. Harper said so far the donations are not very good.

Mrs. Harper said, "scores of elderly people don't know where their next meal will come from."

Donations of meat are coming in very well, she said. "But we need lots of eggs and fresh vegetables."

Donors to the stall to be opened at 1 p.m. were asked to call Mrs. Harper, 5695 Patricia Bay Highway, at GR 4-1750.

To Speak Here

Brig. William G. H. Roaf will speak at the quarterly meeting of the Boy Scouts Association, Victoria District, Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Scout headquarters.

Hopes Raised, Dashed

Hospital Director Flays Government

Mrs. C. C. Warren, president of the Gorge Road Hospital board of directors, last night criticized the provincial government for its "lack of firmness" in policy statements regarding financial assistance.

The hospital operated at a deficit of $6,486 last year, and because its only source of income is from patient fees, patient rates had to be increased in January, Mrs. Warren said in her report presented during the annual board meeting.

Hospital facilities were expanded in anticipation that the provincial government would implement its rehabilitation program, Mrs. Warren said.

The government "indicated it would establish its rehabilitation program . . . whereas now, a variety of reasons are being given for delaying action," she charged.

Patient rates had to be increased from $165 to $180 a month for the wards, from $185 to $205 for semi-private rooms and from $210 to $235 for private rooms, a hospital spokesman said.

Mrs. Warren said: "We cannot emphasize too strongly the fact that so long as we are denied BCHIS coverage it cannot be expected patients are willingly going to pay our rates as against $1 per day at the acute hospitals."

Mayor Percy Scurrah, after learning the hospital may be faced with further deficits when wage negotiations are completed later in the year, commented on the board's financial problem by saying, "If I know anything about it, I think they're going to grow worse."

To Meet Premier

Two members of the Scottish Council will confer briefly with Premier Bennett, members of the provincial cabinet and industrial leaders in Victoria Saturday.

Central Saanich Water Plan Pledged

Promise of a new water works system for Central Saanich was held out by Reeve H. R. Brown at a meeting on a new zoning bylaw for the municipality last night.

He said an announcement would be made soon on plans for a water system for the municipality, most of which is now without.

New Medical-Dental Building Site Bought

A row of small houses on the south side of Yates just east of Cook has been sold to a group of doctors for a modern medical-dental building site subject to the necessary rezoning, city council was told yesterday.

The real estate firm said the property would be large enough to provide off-street parking for occupants and clients.

A spokesman said last night no estimates of cost of the project could be released until preliminary plans are completed.

Little Elected

Thomas M. Little, president of Little & Taylor Jewelers Ltd., will be the next president of the Rotary Club of Victoria, succeeding Maurice Green. He was sole nominee for the post. His father, the late M. J. Little, was president of the club in 1943-44.